

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 4-6 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Claims 1-3 and 7-9 are currently pending.

In the final Office Action mailed on November 8, 2004, the Examiner allowed claims 1-3 and 7-9. The Examiner rejected claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, and rejected claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,229,840 to Ichihara in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,940,452 to Rich.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections of claims 4-6 under both 35 U.S.C. § 103 and 112. To expedite prosecution of this case, however, Applicants have canceled claims 4-6. The rejections of claims 4-6 are therefore moot.

As a result, only allowed claims 1-3 and 7-9 remain pending, so that this application is in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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